Non-Alignment Policy

2413. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have virtually shifted from the policy of non-alignment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to strengthen this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. India continues to attach importance to the policy of non-alignment and continues to play an active role in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). India had participated at Ministerial level in the April meeting of NAM Foreign Ministers in Durban, South Africa. Our contribution to the deliberations on shaping the NAM agenda for the 21 st century was appreciated.

(c) Does not arise.

U.S. Refusal to declare Pakistan a **Terrorist State**

2414. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has refused to list Pakistan as a terrorist State;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is due to diplomatic failure or due to other political reasons that Government could not provide convincing evidence to U.S. for taking a decision in favour of India; and

(d) Government's strategy to pressurize U.S. Government to list Pakistan as terrorist state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The United States has not designated Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism under its domestic law.

(b) to (d) Due to the Government's strong and purposive international engagement, the international community, including the United states, recognises Pakistan's links with cross-border terrorism in India and the responsibility and the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to put an end to it. It is for the Government of the United States to examine whether Pakistan meets the criteria prescribed by the U.S. domestic law for designating a country as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Regrouping of Taliban in Afghanistan

2415. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information about the regrouping of Taliban in Afghanistan;

(b) whether they are getting foreign aids;

(c) if so, the known sources of aid to Taliban;

(d) whether the available information has been passed on to the Governments of USA and UK; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e)There have been reports of theTaliban and Al-Qaida cadres re-grouping along the eastern and southeastern parts of Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and receiving support from across the border.

Information and assessment in this regard, and its impact on return of peace in Afghanistan, as well as regional peace and stability are regularly shared in interactions with other interested countries.

British Foreign Secretary's visit to India and Pakistan

2416. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan after his talks with the Indian leaders and returned to India with some feed back;